

VZCZCXRO9584
PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAH #1040 2701047
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 271047Z SEP 07
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9444
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 2804
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0626
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0502
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 1078
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1791
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9445
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0577
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001040

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KIRF](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN GROUP IN
TURKMENABAT IS REGISTERED

REF: A. ASHGABAT 845
[1](#)B. ASHGABAT 897

[1](#)1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Post confirmed today that the evangelical Christian Source of Life Church in Turkmenabat was successfully registered on the 24th of September, after two years of process. The preacher, Jabar Aliyev, received news of it from a representative of the Council on Religious Affairs. He was extremely pleased about the development, which he said will open the door for increasing his congregation from ten people to "many more," and will also make it much easier to rent venues for church services.

[1](#)3. (SBU) COMMENT: We are pleased by this first registration of a religious group since 2004. We hope the government is acting on at least some of the promises President Berdimuhamedov made to members of the USCIRF delegation in August (reftels). It is possible this registration was a gesture calculated to coincide with President Berdimuhamedov's trip to UNGA in New York. While waiting in the airport VIP lounge to see off the president on September 23, First Deputy Foreign Minister Wepa Hajiyev pulled the Charge aside to tell him explicitly Source of Life is being registered. END COMMENT.
HOAGLAND